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7-10-1960

### 1960-07-10, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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## Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

## Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

## Keywords

1960-07-10

## Identifier

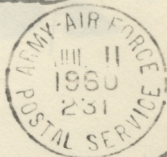
2017-219-w-r-\_Barto\_ColdWar\_1960-07-10

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Capt. Belle J. Harris  
7272 USAF Hospital  
APO 231 USAFE  
ny ny



Airmail

Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Harris  
1717 Highland Avenue  
Knoxville 16  
Tennessee.

10 July 1960  
8<sup>30</sup><sub>pm</sub> Sunday Note

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm sitting here in my room as blue as indigo. Ray has been gone only four days and it has been four years to me. I have literally run myself to death to get away from the fact that I have to be here without him until 19 January at the latest.

Everyone has been marvelous to me. Chuck and Jane and Ed have invited me to play golf two afternoons. I went once and played at 8<sup>am</sup> this morning. All my gang have invited me to go and do things with them. We bowled and dined and ridden my bike, but nothing relieves me of the fact that I'm only waiting to pack my bags for N.S.A.

Ray should be on his way to get the new car & the part in New York - I'm already hoping for a letter tomorrow afternoon. Although I know the poor tired



2  
thing has finally had a chance  
to write. I've already written 3 -  
no, 4, and will write again tonight.  
You'll receive 3 of them before  
you get this. Love them for him  
because he will be coming your  
way soon. He wasn't sure when  
he'd be at his parents' home or  
how long he'd stay; so he asked  
me to write to you until he  
leaves your house - then I'll  
write to Seymour. He's going to  
stop in Washington to talk to our  
Colonel Graham in the Pentagon -  
Ray feels certain Col. G. can get  
me assigned directly to Seymour  
so we won't have the agony of  
getting my assignment changed  
after we get married.

Thursday afternoon 7 July at  
1<sup>30</sup> PM I took the Oath of Office  
for Regular Commission. My  
new drill number is now  
59616-4 instead of AN 3078984.  
If Ray had been here only one  
day longer he could have  
administered the Oath - since  
any other officer can swear  
you in. I would have loved  
that, and he'd have been so proud.  
Now that I'm a Regular I  
can get married and to hell.



-3-

with anyone who says otherwise  
If Ray can figure a way to  
get back over here by October  
we can be married here, or  
will be married as soon as  
that plane gets to the U.S.A.

I'm glad Jay traded radios  
because I wanted you to have  
one like his - they didn't have  
them when I bought yours.

Elmer, Mom tells me you  
are adding beer to your  
diet. If you do that, there's  
no need for her to bother  
with the diet, the alcohol  
will put you back in the  
hospital anyway, so have  
about giving yourself a chance  
and lay off the booze.

Well today Liz Long Alessio  
is 33 years old. I almost forgot  
her birthday. I hope you can  
get her address in Spain. I'm  
tired of looking at this tray.

Mom, I mailed my suitcase  
about the 15-16<sup>th</sup> of June so  
you probably won't get it  
until 15-16 July - just in  
time to send Ray to the  
cleaners, I'll bet. I think Susan  
Smith will probably take better



Care of them than any other -  
but you decide.

You never mentioned how  
she'd liked the new house  
paint job. I gather from  
her letter that she has  
Daddy's lawn-mower - might  
as well, we never had any  
grass to mow. - just bricks  
and sticks. Are you planning  
to plant anything in place  
of the tree that died in our  
yard? It must be bare on  
that side.

Don't break your neck on  
the table cloth for this. &  
as I mentioned, I'll love it,  
but can't use it much in a  
trailer.

Well, Mom, I gotta write  
and address another letter  
to yours and Elmer's address -  
so I'll stop for now and  
try again -

I wait all day for time  
to write Ray - I imagine he'll  
be very tired of reading  
by the time he wades through  
all I will have written by  
18-19 July - I Love & Miss You Two  
Lita